Welfare of handicapped in remote tribal areas

1453. SHRl D. RAJA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any outreach programme to help handicapped people which living in remote tribal areas;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has curtailed all outreach programmes which were focused on tribals in the country;

(c) what steps would be taken to evolve new scheme to help people of all groups and strata living in distant rural areas;

(d) whether it is also fact that NIHH, Mumbai and other institutes do not extend help to people in rural areas; and

(e) the steps proposed to change the policies in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (c) Yes, Sir. National Institutes including National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped are extending outreach services to poor and needy persons with disabilities through their regional centres and composite rehabilitation camps to provide various clinical theraputic services; aids and appliance as well as for awareness generation on prevention, identification of disabilities etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Constitutional status for the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis

† 1454. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3002, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th April, 2007 and state:

(a) the number of reports submitted to Government by the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis so far; and

(b) the details of action taken by Government so far on those reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Ever since the setting up of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis in August, 1994, they have submitted seven reports so far.

(b) Four reports have already been laid on the Tables of both Houses of the Parliament alongwith Action Taken Memoranda.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Financial assistance for setting up Old Age Homes

1455. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme to give financial assistance to the State Governments to establish Old Age Homes;

(b) if so, whether any financial assitance has been given to the Goa Government in this regard during the last five years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) In the existing scheme, there is no provision for disbursement of financial assistance to the State Government for construction of Old Age Homes.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Harassment of SC students

1456. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of harassment of Scheduled castes students in UTs, IIMs, IISc, Bangalore and AIIMS, New Delhi have come to Government's notice during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the particulars and the nature of alleged atrocities institute-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether any representation, requesting for intervention, is pending with Government; and

(d) the measures being taken by Government to set right the injustice meted out to scheduled caste students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Ashrams and hostels for tribal students in Karnataka

1457. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments particularly the Karnataka Government have requested for special central assistance during the last three years, for construction of ashrams, boys, and girls, hostels, and for providing post-matric scholarships for tribal students;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the total central assistance provided to State Governments during the above period. State-wise and year-wise?